

The committee amendment removes any concern about the university with reference to eligibility and this amendment that I'm offering will take away all reference to the players as employees and all reference to other benefits. One point of explanation on that notation about other benefits. This language is similar to that which I put in the bill that I first offered many, many years ago and at that time I was concerned about workers' compensation for the players who may get hurt. Since that time, the Legislature wisely adopted a bill that requires, in statute, the university to have insurance coverage for these athletes so that if they're injured, even catastrophically, they will be covered. So there is no need for the other language about benefits anyway. And what the university was concerned about is that may refer to pensions and things of that sort which never was my concern. So I am asking that you adopt this amendment to LB 1226.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Chambers amendment. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, my name is also on this amendment and I support it because I support the bill. I don't know about you but I know I have had the circumstance of people saying, well, what is this crazy idea about paying football players? Kind of starts off at that level. And if they will keep their temper for long enough to talk through the issue, I have yet to find somebody who doesn't say, well, gosh, I hadn't thought about that, I guess that's pretty reasonable. Sitting in the Government Committee, hearing the testimony on this bill years ago, I was struck by a situation that I found unfair. A full ride academic scholar comes to Nebraska because it's good for the university to have them there, because they are a magnet for grants, because they lead a profile, because the university gets some value out of having that kind of student in its population and that student gets their dorm, they get their tuition. They may get a stipend for books and, in addition, if they want to, they can sign up for something called work study. Twenty hours a week they do work for the university. They get paid an additional amount of money. It's discretionary money, they can spend it for whatever. Student comes down on a football scholarship, good for the university to have them there as to the credibility of the institution. They wind up putting not 20 hours but maybe 40 hours a week on football, but if they wanted to get a work study program, if they wanted to do something for the